

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197947

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ORIGIN CU-03

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R 101454Z AUG 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 1461

1. PLOSCARU OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY IS SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH CU/EE FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF NEW PROGRAM UNDER EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. PLOSCARU UNDERSTANDS FROM MITRAN THAT NEGOTIATION OF NEW PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER. PAO FERNANDEZ RECALLS THAT AT MARCH 18 LUNCH HOSTED BY GLIGA FOR AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS, MID-AUGUST DATE WAS MENTIONED FOR EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS BUT NOT FOR OPENING OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. BUCHAREST 1461 CONFIRMS THIS BUT DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHERE ROMANIANS GOT IDEA THAT AGREEMENT REACHED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

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PAGE 02 STATE 197947

2. IN RESPONDING TO PLOSCARU, WE PLAN INDICATE OUR PREFERENCES FOR EARLY DECEMBER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EXCHANGE OF

DRAFTS END OF SEPTEMBER. WE CONSIDER THAT THESE ARE IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL LIKELY RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION OF PRESENT PROGRAM. ALSO, WE WISH TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION AND FOR EVALUATION OF FIRST RESULTS OF SHORT TERM RESEARCH PROGRAM DISCUSSED WITH ROMANIANS DURING JELAVICH VISIT.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENT ON OUR PREFERRED TIMETABLE AND HOPEFULLY, PROVIDE CONFIRMATION THAT IT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIANS ON SUBJECT. IF AGREEABLE WITH EMBASSY, WE WILL TELL PLOSCARU THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE INITIAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF NEW DRAFT PROGRAM MID-SEPTEMBER.

4. CU/EE HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH AMBASSADOR BARNES ON NEW PROGRAM. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BEST HOPE FOR INDUCING BETTER ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE DURING NEXT PROGRAM WAS TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC PRIORITY SUBJECT AREAS OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES RATHER THAN CONTINUE TO BE BOUND BY UNREALISTIC AND NON-SPECIFIC QUOTAS. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO FORMULATE U.S. EXCHANGE PRIORITIES BEFORE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIANS. POSSIBLE PRIORITY AREAS BEING CONSIDERED HERE INCLUDE ECONOMICS, FOREIGN TRADE, MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AMERICAN AND ROMANIAN STUDIES, CULTURE AND EDUCATION. ROMANIANS WILL CERTAINLY

HAVE OTHERS TO SUGGEST PARTICULARLY IN S&T. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON WHICH OF THESE OR OTHER AREAS HOLD SIGNIFICANT INTEREST FOR BOTH SIDES, WE WOULD PROPOSE THEN TO EXPLORE BUILDING THE TOTAL CU/EE PROGRAM (ACADEMIC, IV, AMSPECS) AROUND THEM.

5. REGARDING SITE OF PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON WASHINGTON OR BUCHAREST. WE ARE AGREEABLE TO EITHER WITH A SLIGHT PREFERENCE FOR BUCHAREST SINCE MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS WERE HELD HERE AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE EASIER TO GET ROMANIAN DECISIONS IF THEY ARE NEGOTIATING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PAGE 03     STATE 197947

HOME TURF. ON OTHER HAND, PLOSCARU HAS INDICATED NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON SINCE CURRENT PROGRAM WAS NEGOTIATED IN BUCHAREST. ROBINSON

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